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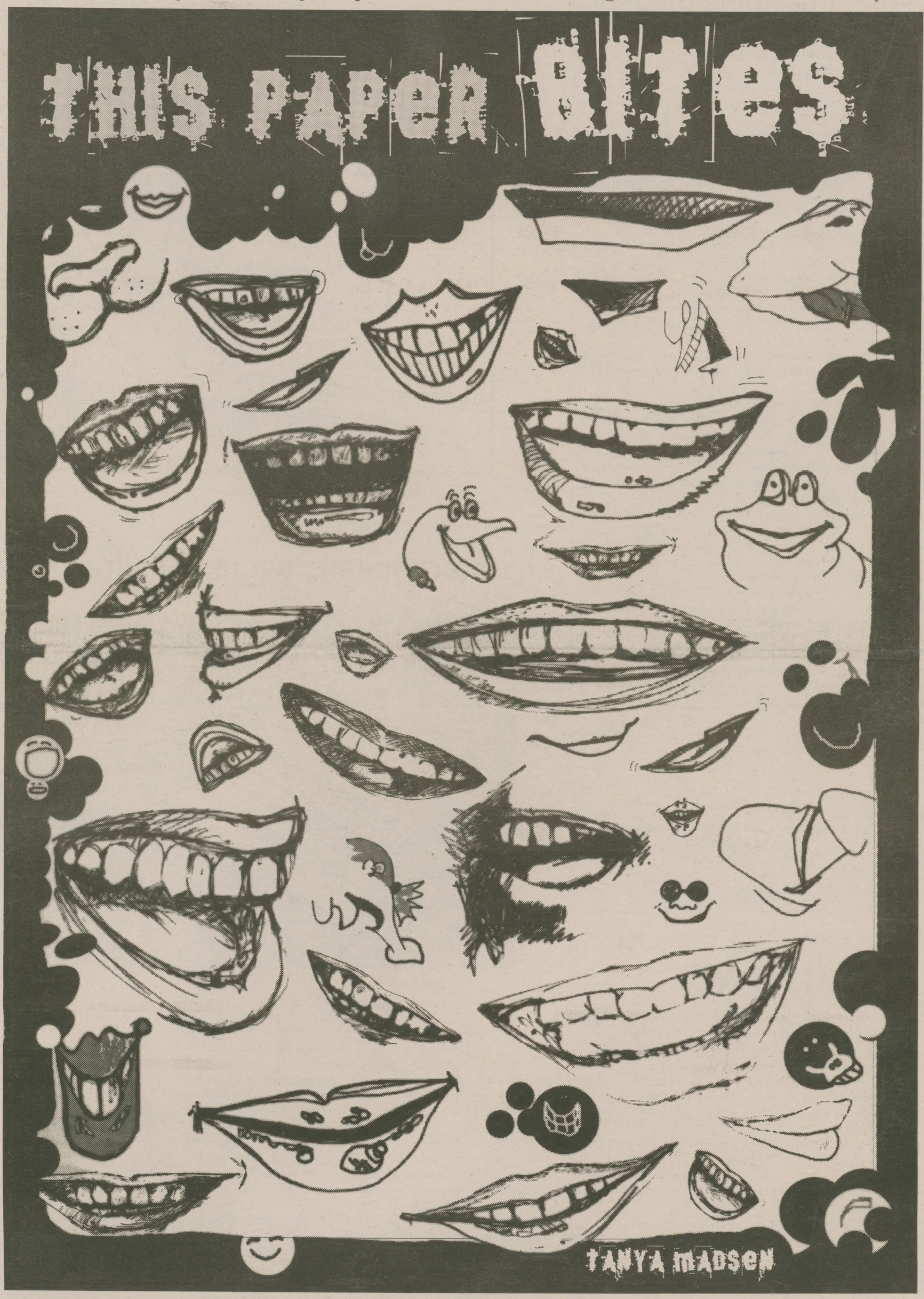
July 18th 2002 [55.03]

gnashin' and wailin' for 54 years



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Editorial

The great headline robbery

Somebody stole my headline.

It was going be the big story of the year. The biggest case of fraud in Canadian university history had gone down last fall, or so we thought. A routine audit of UVSS finances in October 2001 revealed a deficit of $311,400.

"The society suspects foul play," reported *the Martlet*, "and has initiated a police investigation and a forensic audit." Since then, financial statements have revealed that the amount missing from the UVSS operating budget was $425, 978.

What a story, friends – the campus equivalent of *Oceans 11*.

When they catch the person responsible, we were told, it's going to be huge. So we, the new editorial team, started our tour of duty with baited breath. We knew that, before too long, the authorities would catch up with the criminal mastermind behind this heist.

They'd bring him or her back to Victoria in chains, or strapped to a dolly with one of those Hannibal Lechter masks on. There'd be flash bulbs at the airport, a gaggle of reporters, with *the Martlet* at the front, capturing every detail of the Biggest Story of the Year.

"Could we have a quote for *the Martlet*?" we'd call out above the throng.

"I would've gotten away with it," the perpetrator would shout, unrepentant, "if it wasn't for those meddling kids!"

The cops would carry a briefcase with the missing loot, which would be returned to its rightful owners and all would be merry in the Student Union Building.

Then we'd rush back to *the Martlet* office and plan our cover. What should the headline say? "Caught!" Maybe "Busted!" would be sexier. Either way, we'd win some awards and have our story picked by the national papers – the crowning achievement to our year of *Martlet*-dom.

So you can imagine our disappointment when the story turned out to be not nearly as explosive as we'd hoped it would be. Police have now recommended charges in this matter, but only for a fraction of the figure previously touted – we can't be more specific until the charges are approved.

So we can't tell you how much might have been purloined by . . . well, sorry we can't tell you the name of the potential suspect who hasn't been charged and probably won't be until the fall.

So this story is just dragging on, with no sense of drama, and with about as many verifiable facts as a *Penthouse* Forum letter. No climactic *Scooby Doo* resolutions here, just recommended charges for an amount that's . . . well, probably still pretty big but not like almost-half-a-million-dollars big. You get the picture.

No big loot, no *Oceans 11*, no Sinatra, not even George Clooney. And even if Clooney were involved, we couldn't tell you about it until Crown Counsel approves the charges. We wanted to be Woodward and Bernstein on this but instead we feel more like Jethro and Hank of the *Mayor's Income Grain Silo Gazette*.

Never mind, I'm sure there's a story here somewhere – like, say, what happened to the rest of the "missing money" anyway?

Stay tuned. . .

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read?

Write us, or write *for* us: martlet@uvic.ca

VIPIRG

Refund Period

The Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) is a student-run non-profit organization dedicated to research and action for social and environmental justice. Our research library loans thousands of items to students every year. Our Research Internship Program funds student researchers to conduct reasearch for community groups and get course credit.

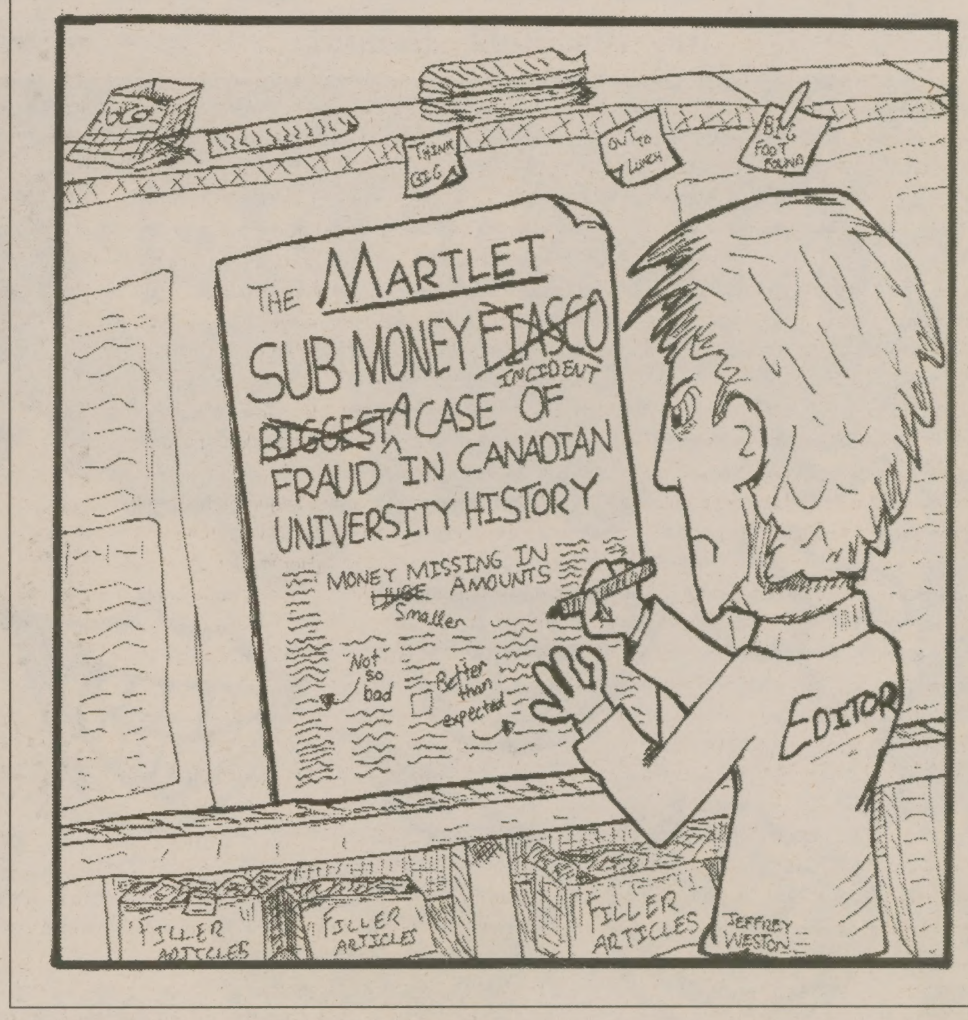
Recent VIPIRG projects include lobbying for a low-cost dental clinic, organizing the resisting Global Militarism conference, acting as a major spokesperson gainst cuts to Income Assistance in B.C., hosting a speaker from Mozambique and conducting campaigns such as Economic Human Rights and Canadian mines in Peru.

Every UVic undergrad is a member of VIPIRG and pays $3 per full-time semster in membership fees through their student fees. This fee is refundable by cheque to students during a refund period each semester.

The summer 2002 refund period will be held **July 30 - August 9, 2002**. Refund forms can be picked up at the VIPIRG offices in SUB120-122. Info: 472-4558.

Westoon

by Jeffrey Weston



Soapbox

Pharmacy means game over for pinball

by Jeffrey Weston

On July 31, 2002, the Escapes Arcade in UVic's Student Union Building (SUB) will be closing its doors and a pharmacy will be opening them again. The video arcade wasn't making enough profit to earn its place in the SUB.

With the growing popularity of PC and gaming consoles, video arcades are few and far between these days. And thanks to this new technology, a particular type of arcade game has been declining for years and is now close to extinction. That game is pinball. Escapes used to keep a pinball machine or two until their supplier stopped buying them. Until recently, one major manufacturer, Williams & Bally, continued to make pinbal machines. Now even they have given up making pinball machines due to a "prolonged period of weak demand and ongoing losses."

Pinball was an amazing game, although few people seemed to realize it in recent years. It was challenging, and appealed equally to both men and women. Pinball was the last arcade game that actually *existed*. In this world of virtual games, it was real. When you pressed one of its two buttons it made an actual flipper flip, it made a real ball shoot up an actual playing field and drop into a hole, where gears and levers, springs and ramps would turn, spin, propel and shoot the ball around the table at amazing speeds. Pinball was never as simple as it seemed. Players used their entire bodies to move the machine - pushing and nudging to prevent a ball from being drained, or to place spin on the ball. Control of the ball was the key to the game. And in order to reach the final level (yes there were levels, and strategy, to the game), knowledge and skill were needed. Although luck was part of pinball - like any game - *skill* was what got you the high scores. In *Twilight Zone* pinball (considered by some to be the greatest pinball game ever made) the reward for unlocking all the doors is a six ball multi-ball and a chance to go for the super jackpot. This stuff can sound cheesy, but when people reach this level, crowds start to gather. And pinball becomes a spectacle.

Pinball is a truly a marvelous game. People who complain that arcade games are too violent, repetitive and boring have never played pinball. And it's too bad, because you missed it. Pinball lives on in secondhand machines, scattered around restaurants and old arcades, but that's about it. The demise of Escapes Arcade is just another sign of changing times, of older amusements being replaced with newer, flashier ones. I wish more people had tried pinball rather than just dismissing it, leaving those beautiful machines to sit neglected at the back of arcades and in the dark corners of pubs.

It was great but now it's over. Maybe it isn't a money-maker anymore but pinball is still a beautiful, real game.

School board charter acknowledges sexual minorities

by Leigh Phillips

The Victoria Pride Parade ended, as usual, at Fisherman's Wharf. But the location's ubiquitous and ghastly sweet smell of rotting fish could not keep Ryan Barry from smiling: the Victoria School Board had just changed its Students' Charter of Rights to protect students of sexual minorities.

"This is amazing," said Barry, UVic Pride's representative to the UVSS Board. "This has to be applauded. With the new charter being enforced, bullying and homophobia will be aggressively prosecuted. It's going to make schools a lot safer for gay and lesbian youth."

After presentations by Barry, educators, parents and students, at its June 24 meeting, the Victoria School Board unanimously voted to amend its student charter to include the further right of students, "To be educated in an environment with mutually respectful relationships regardless of race, creed, colour, gender, sexual orientation or any other basis of discrimination."

The board passed two additional motions establishing a committee to further explore safety issues of gay and lesbian students and to develop an anti-harassment policy.

"In high school I was terrified to come out," said Barry. "I tried to find women that I could fall for that would end this 'problem.' I had no role models – no one was identified as gay in a positive manner. There was not a single hint from anyone that being gay was okay."

Barry added that the board has caught up to past concessions made for school staff.

"Gay and lesbian educators are protected, [gay members of] CUPE are protected, there's lots of infrastructure for gay and lesbian workers but there was nothing for students."

Leading the charge at the school board was trustee Charley Beresford.

"Lots of folks just don't know what's happening to gay and lesbian students – because of harassment they might be getting bad grades, drop out of school or even commit suicide," said Beresford. "We needed this change because homophobia is not something that can be dealt with by generic safety policies."

Dan Kerr, chair of UVic Pride, agrees.

"We want these students to be able to make it to university," Kerr said.

"I went through the same thing in high school and I took a guy to Grad. It was the first time I had come out to my friends. [Homophobia] is negatively impacting their education. Some don't complete school."

At the meeting, Beresford quoted a 1999 McCreary Centre Society study showing that 46 per cent of gay and lesbian youth have attempted suicide at least once.

Kathryn Saunders, former UVic student and co-ordinator of Victoria queer youth group S.E.X.Y. (Sexually Eccentric Xenophile Youth), agrees that the general public is largely unaware of the level of harassment.

"We have over 100 members of SEXY and 100 per cent of them have experienced harassment," said Saunders. "One of the biggest problems is when it happens often teachers don't necessarily respond."

John Trueman, former executive director of the provincial queer youth organization Youthquest, thinks its still too early to celebrate.

photo submitted

UVic Pride's Ryan Barry beams victoriously at the Victoria School Board's progressive move.

"It's fabulous that school boards are taking the lead," said Trueman, "but let's not let the provincial government off the hook, which has consistently refused to do anything. Youth in the big cities don't need this kind of support as much as those in smaller towns or rural areas like Abbotsford or Prince George."

In addition, the three motions did not deal with curriculum changes, which Barry says is where real advances can be made.

"If you were to change Sex Ed, it would be an enormous task. Lack of homosexual content is the least of the problems. There's a lack of sexual content in Sex Ed. It's all so clinical and there are line drawings you colour in. They barely talk about 'normal' sex. We're nowhere near being able to discuss homosexuality there yet."

In any case, Beresford is confident that that is the direction in which we are headed.

"I really hope something comes out of the committee [to look into safety issues for students of sexual minorities]. One of the initial changes may be to school library content," said Beresford. "The committee is the process that will develop curriculum changes. You can't legislate attitude but you can foster dialogue and the committee process itself will be part of doing that."

Student Life holds court off campus

by Angelica Montgomery

A UVic law school graduate has filed a suit against his alma mater over the right to hand out a private publication on campus.

Michael Butterfield's magazine *Student Life* collapsed in the fall of 1999 after university officials sent letters to the publication's advertisers. The letters stated that *Student Life* was being improperly distributed.

Butterfield, now a practicing lawyer, printed three issues of the free magazine over a period of 18 months. He had hired nine students to work on the paper part time, some of whom were paid to hand it out on campus.

The legal challenge is a fight for freedom of expression on campus, said Butterfield, who graduated from UVic's undergraduate program in 1994, and from the law school in 2000.

"The key issue is whether we as students on the campus have the right to freedom of expression on the campus."

The legal challenge, he said, is an "action for declaration." Butterfield is not asking for money in the suit.

The legal arguments surrounding the lawsuit involve whether the Charter of Rights and Freedoms should apply to universities in this situation.

"The university's position is that the charter doesn't apply," said Butterfield, who used the profits from the paper to fund his education.

He added that his legal challenge could also determine whether a university has the right to restrict the distribution of political flyers on campus, or restrict political protest.

The lawsuit could potentially open the campus up to private commercial newspapers – which would create direct competition for existing campus media like *the Martlet* and *Offbeat*. Butterfield believes this will be the result if he wins the lawsuit.

But UVic's lawyer, Micheal Mark, disagrees.

"The question is whether the Charter applies in this context," Mark said. "I don't know if it's broader than that."

Off-campus publications are restricted to distribution boxes at three locations on campus, according to university policy 6120, though the policy does not expressly prohibit handing out publications on campus.

Butterfield gained access to two distribution boxes on campus at the beginning of the 1998 fall semester.

Even if the Charter does apply, the university's policy may not be a violation of Charter rights because off-campus publications have an alternative method of distributing their papers, said David Schneiderman, a constitutional law expert at the University of Toronto.

"The question will be ultimately whether the limit of activity is complete or whether the university has provided some outlets [for expression]," Schneiderman said.

University officials had several conversations with Butterfield regarding the distribution on campus before Bruce Kilpatrick, a university communications director, sent a letter in the fall of 1999 to *Student Life*'s advertisers.

"*Student Life Magazine* has neither sought nor received permission to distribute its current issue or any future issues," Kilpatrick wrote. "I should also mention that the university does not permit publications or commercial ventures to accost students, faculty, staff or visitors on university property in an attempt to distribute or promote their publications, products or services."

Patty Pitts, an information officer at UVic Communications, stands behind the decision to write the letter.

"The reason we [sent the letter] was to let the advertisers know that they were participating in a newspaper that was not compliant with the university's distribution policies."

Student Life's advertisers pulled out of the paper after the letters were sent. Butterfield said he lost $6,800 in profits as a result. He has filed for compensation in a separate claim through small-claims court.

Butterfield also said the letter was worded unfairly.

"There's a difference between just offering people a copy of your paper and accosting people," he said.

In a September 2000 Freedom of Information Request, Butterfield asked for all university records relating to *Student Life*.

The request revealed that the university had not received any complaints on the paper being handed out, he said.

Police recommend charges in case of UVSS money

by Robin Platts

Nine months after an audit revealed a suspiciously large operating loss for UVic's students' society (UVSS), Saanich Police have recommended criminal charges to Crown Counsel.

"A report was submitted to Crown Counsel in late June," said Sgt. Bob Hubbard of the Saanich Police fraud division.

"The police believe a criminal offence has taken place."

Police cannot divulge the name of the suspect nor the amount related to the recommended charges at this point.

The initial amount reported was $311,400, but financial statements have since revealed that the UVSS's unexpected operating loss for 2000-2001 was actually $425,978.

Initially, the implication seemed to be that all or most of the money may have gone astray under suspicious circumstances.

> The police believe a criminal offense has taken place.
>
> *Sgt. Bob Hubbard, Saanich Fraud Division*

However, the amount that the recommended charges would pertain to is much less.

"It's much smaller," said Jonas Gifford, the UVSS director of finance. "It's the amount that we have evidence of criminal activity in relation to."

Gifford declined to comment on whether the sum involved was the only amount lost suspiciously.

The exact nature of the remainder of the operating loss is not clear at this point, although Gifford said that some of the losses were due to bad management decisions.

Should Crown Counsel not approve the charges, the matter would still be considered under investigation. Hubbard said it is likely that Crown Counsel won't approve the charges until after the summer.

So you wanna *go*? Meet me whenever at:

www.martlet.ca

We will go.

You Take the Mountain, We'll

Can the protest movement survive the "war on

by Sharmeen Khan

Every summer I seem to find myself in the position of putting on my summit protest cap, fundraising and heading out to some part of Canada or the United States to protest against another international group.

Since the World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in Seattle, there have been many discussions about the privilege of activists traveling to other parts of the world to protest huge trade and economic organizations. There have been discussions about mobilizing in our own communities, opposing capitalism and promoting alternatives. When it was announced that Canada would be hosting this year's G8 summit in the high mountaintops of Kananaskis, Alberta, these questions came up again. This time the circumstances were different. With the "War on Terrorism" in full swing, everyone was wondering what the new climate of resistance and opposition would look like.

And another question was posed: should I stay in my own community and try to draw links between the G8's economic policies and Gordon Campbell's neo-liberal policies here in B.C. – or should I pack my gas mask and trek through the mountains to Calgary?

In the end one major reality influenced my decision to leave for Calgary – I wanted to oppose the inaccessibility of the meeting and the amount of money spent on security.

I was a little nervous, since the RCMP had claimed that they could no longer "tell the difference between an activist and a terrorist." I was enraged by the high police surveillance and the sabotage of organizing efforts going on in Calgary. The Albertan coalition lost their "Solidarity Camp" and were struggling at the last minute to get their protest together.

Knowing full well I wouldn't get within 100 kilometres of the meeting, and knowing the level of fear, I wanted to be another body in the streets, opposing the G8.

Across Canada, preparations were being made to protest the summit. The level of anticipation rose as people watched Halifax protesters gassed outside the finance ministers' meeting – almost as a warning of what was to come. It felt as if all eyes of the world were on Canada. Things grew ugly at the previous G8 meeting in Genoa, Italy, when 200,000 protesters took to the street.

Police in Genoa raided activist centres where protesters met and slept, and brutality on the streets resulted in the death of one young protester.

But why protest at all?

It may seem that many of these protests, summit resistances and activist gatherings are disjointed, repetitive and ineffective. But, reflecting on the various successes of disrupting the meetings, gathering around the issues and trying to develop a sense of international solidarity, I believe that the "anti-globalization movement" is the most potent force against neo-liberalism and economic globalization.

Since the collapse of the USSR and the end of the Cold War, with the rise of free trade, deregulation and corporate influence, the anti-globalization movement has thrown a wrench into "business as usual." Activists gather to not only resist but to show how different models of democracy can work. It has obviously alarmed the governments and corporate powers – or else fences would not be constructed, tear gas would not be the choice product of the police state and our leaders would not run to the top of a mountain to meet.

So how is the G8 connected to the larger picture of globalization and neo-liberalism?

The G8 (which is interchangeably used with the term G7 because of Russia's limbo state) is the Group of Eight – the eight most powerful countries in the world – France, Britain, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, Russia and the United States. The representatives of these wealthy countries gather to discuss macroeconomic policies and trade.

How wealthy are these countries? Well, in the year 2000 the G8 accounted for a net gross domestic product (GDP) of $21.1 trillion (US) within a total world GDP of $31.3 trillion. This means the G8 controls about 68 per cent of the world's economy. In contrast, the combined populations of the G8 nations make up less than 14 per cent of the total world population. They heavily influence such aid organizations as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and such trade organizations as the WTO.

This year's G8 meeting was prominent because of its discussions concerning the "War Against Terrorism." It was also the last chance for Africa to "get its act together," with the eight richest countries discussing aid packages and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Touted as a landmark initiative to reduce poverty, NEPAD was welcomed with open arms by such G8 representatives as Jean Chretien and Tony Blair, as well as James Wolfensohn of the World Bank. The partnership was heralded as a new plan for international cooperation around development and poverty reduction, but many African activists, labour unions and women's organizations have denounced it.

According to the Group for Research and Initiative for the Liberation of Africa (www.grila.com) – while NEPAD claims to seek conditions for sustainable development, peace, security, and democracy – many believe the partnership will be the new agreement to force debt payments for many countries. Picture it: Africa's very own International Monetary Fund.

A different kinda stampede in downtown Calg

Furthermore, it is an agreement created by just four heads of state (from Algeria, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa) – not exactly representative of the rest of Africa and its people.

Protesters recognized that the rich G8 countries were complicit in the military devastation of Afghanistan and the economic ruin of Africa, in a situation reminiscent of the age-old story of imperialism. This is a new imperialism, based on military and economic control, whether it be a direct war or through the policies of the IMF, World Bank and WTO – organizations heavily influenced by Western models of capitalism and growth who control trade and shape the economic and social policies of everyone else.

In a world of growing poverty, international debt, militarization and inequality, how could a gathering

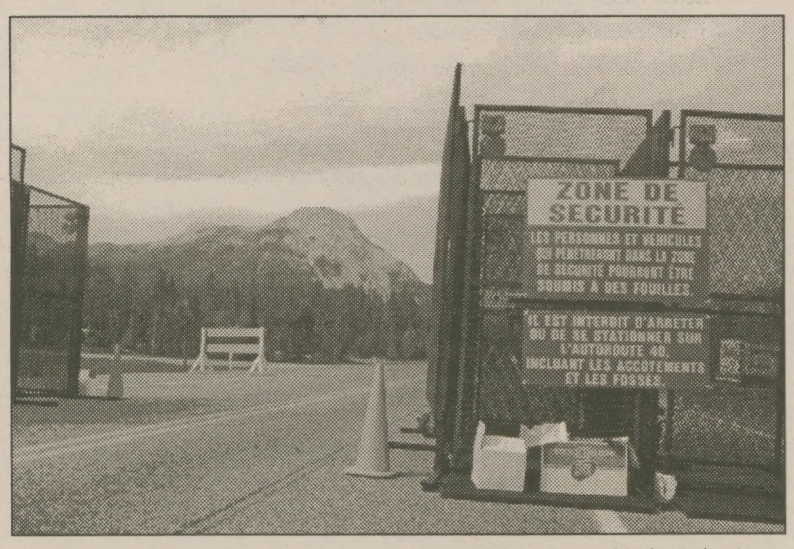


photo by Matthew Lamers

The first check point at Kananaskis. The line between a democracy and a police state? Read the *Charter of Rights* lately?

ll Take the Streets

n terrorism"?

of the eight richest and most powerful countries happen without anger and cynicism? Naturally, they met in a bubble of blue skies and green grass, doing photo shoots and getting a kick out of Canadian maple syrup. They were out of earshot from the activists who wanted to tell them, "Guys, the emperor still has no clothes."

To make sure no unwanted opinions were heard, they set up a 6.5 kilometre security perimeter around Kananaskis, with security from G8 countries, 5,000 Canadian forces personnel, the RCMP, CSIS, a "no-fly zone," checkpoints along the highway leading into the village and the permission to use lethal force. The cost of this security? Two hundred million dollars.

The pictures of the leaders shaking hands, wearing their cowboy hats, talking about democracy and equality gave a new definition to the word denial.

photo by Matthew Lamers

Calgary. This one fights back!

With no hope of getting close to Kananaskis, activists centred most actions in Calgary's financial district, in an attempt to educate people on the G8. We met with a huge sense of irony, given the impossibility of having our voices heard.

Mayor Bronco said that activists who hold marches are doing so "at their own risk" and that if activists needed a place to crash, there was room in a local prison. The tactics, and the mountaintop location of this year's summit, were reminiscent of the WTO's move to Qatar – making the meetings inaccessible to protesters. Ironically, the Kananaskis set-up ignored the Ted Hughes commission report on the APEC protests, which encouraged the government to be open and accessible to dissenting voices.

About 400 people took part in the G6Billion, the official People's Summit that featured academics, lobbyists and non-governmental activists from all over the world. Activists participated in spokescouncil meetings at the Convergence Centers, discussing strategies and tactics with the reality of low numbers and high police presence. On Sunday, June 23, around 2500 took to the streets in a labour-organized (and legal) rally. A caravan of 100 cars eventually went out to the Kananaskis site, blocking the highway for one kilometre and doing their best to be as loud as possible.

Throughout the week, the police rode around on bicycles, keeping a watchful eye, protecting stores and corporations – rather than lining the streets in riot gear. The RCMP and Calgary Police found their tactics a success and congratulated themselves on preventing violence. They concluded that, when they don't meet protesters with riot gear, shoot tear gas and rubber bullets (i.e. violently), they prevent violence. The equation was quite humorous.

"Threats of violence did not come from the protesters, it came from the media," explained Vancouver activist Garth Mullins. "It was basically a two-month campaign of violence-baiting just characterizing the entire movement as a bunch of hooligans and thugs who break things with no tactical orientation. Where the movement has responded with any physical activity, has been in self-defense against the violent tactics of the police. What you saw [in Calgary] was what you see at all summit activities. A well-disciplined group of people committed to getting their messages out, committed to building their movement, committed to reshaping the political landscape. But also committed to not letting the police and security forces steal the message and take the focus off of the global economy, Africa, the so-called 'War Against Terrorism,' harsh controls in Canada against civil liberties and place it on violence or street brawls."

While many were quick to say that the protest was a success because we managed to do something peaceful in the face of a high police presence and the post-September 11 anti-protest climate, many mainstream media outlets called it the "Death of the Movement." Ironically, when there is violence and disruption, they are quick to blame activists. But when there is no violent confrontation, we are characterized as ineffective and weak.

Despite the harsh criticism by the media, there was confusion and criticism from many activists. How is it that, with combined protests in Vancouver, Ottawa and Calgary, numbers reached less than 10,000? We went home scratching our heads at the low numbers.

Where was the opposition that came out at other summits?

I have heard three arguments: Firstly, post-September 11, the political climate has changed to a more nationalistic ideology in which it is inappropriate to protest. Fear permeates our consciousness as we hear, "There is no difference between an activist and a terrorist." With racial profiling and more powers given to the RCMP and CSIS, many are not confident about protesting and disrupting. Secondly, police and state disruption at this year's G8 summit resulted in disorganization. Thirdly, activists are not yet organized enough to respond effectively when the state changes its tactics by moving the summit to the top of a mountain. There was little work in making the necessary links so that people would find it worthwhile to join the protest. If the leaders are meeting in a different place from where you are protesting, the inspiration to disrupt wavers.

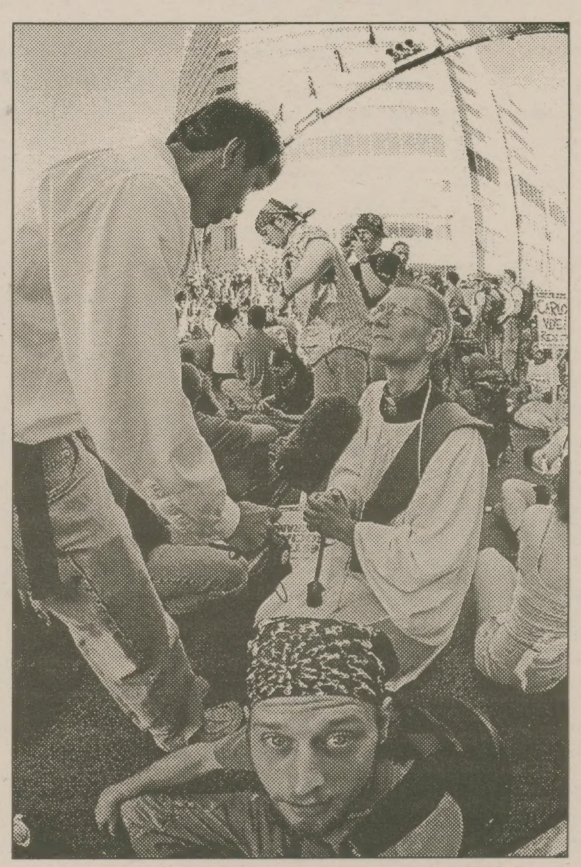


photo by Nic Fensom

The whole gang's here – people from all walks of life protest, despite what the paper s tell you

Garth Mullins left Calgary with feelings of positivity. "I feel really good," Mullins said. "The Prime Minister, local mayor, the city council and police authorities around the world made it really clear that a. we wouldn't be at Kananaskis and b. any march in the city would be illegal and anyone would be immediately arrested at their own risk. Yesterday, the anti-globalization forces defied both these incredibly anti-democratic and draconian policy initiatives by marching on the street. When public assembly and expression becomes illegal, it becomes a form of direct action on its own."

I did not return home feeling defeated. I believe that every gathering leaves a small taste in Canada's mouth. Consider the amount of money they spent on security and how far away they had to go to not see us. If we have tanks in our streets when summits roll through town or if there is a campaign of vilification against activists, these are reminders of the fact that there is no international consensus on poverty, war and free trade.

We remain a powerful force taking the streets, while they hide on top of mountains.

Don't ask, don't tell: UVic Pride members field queeries

Martlet editor **Robin Platts** played devil's advocate recently, presenting UVic Pride members with a number of frequently asked questions about queerness. The response, signed by "Bruce & Steve – Representatives of the International Gay Agenda" follows:

Q: What's the point of having a Pride group on campus? Why does Pride exist at all?

A: The Pride office is like nuclear material – get enough queers together and the critical mass explodes into political advocacy, social support, resource materials and in general a fabulous place. Well, maybe nuclear material exploding isn't the right metaphor. . . .

Why do we exist? There are queer students at UVic right now – they could be anywhere!

Q: Aren't you just drawing attention to yourselves as being "different" – doesn't that just make it harder to integrate?

A: Integration is not a goal of the vast homosexual left wing. Homosexuals and other sexual minorities across the world are working towards DISintegrating the fabric of society and life as we know it on planet Earth. You may also be mistaking being "different" for simply being "fabulous."

Q: Why choose to define yourselves by your sexual orientation – shouldn't everyone's (straights included) sexuality be more of a private thing?

A: If sexuality were more of a private thing we wouldn't have to see Pamela Anderson and her silicone twins bouncing down the beach towards David Hasselhof, or Britney Spears masturbating on a chair in her videos, or Monica and Chandler marrying, Joey and Rachel falling in love, while Ross's lesbian-ex-wife gets a bit part once a season. Straight sex is everywhere – we are inundated with it. Besides, sexual orientation is the only single difference between a "straight" person and a "gay" one.

Q: Is there really that much anti-queer sentiment left, especially on the ultra-PC UVic campus?

A: Every semester the Pride office gets defaced or vandalized. Although PC is what everyone portrays publicly, there still is an undercurrent of homophobia and discrimination on campus.

Q: Doesn't much of the negativity you face stem from the perception that gay men are usually into depraved/kinky sex, cruising, "watersports" and so forth?

A: The impression that sex in whatever form is depraved is the problem. Just as in the heterosexual community, alternative sexual expression is a subculture of the whole. Perhaps the gay community has discovered that uninhibited sex is fun sex and the heterosexual community is simply a few years behind. Just like the heterosexual community is years behind the queers in discovering that socks and sandals don't mix and that proportionally sideburns shouldn't be longer than your hair. And while we are on the topic of fashion mistakes, the mullet was dead and on the ground and should have been buried – fight this faux pas for the good of humankind! Pink dress shirts too. Oh, and wood-paneled station wagons and shag carpet. Ugh.

Q: Why do homosexuals choose to be that way? Is there some kind of incentive program for gay people?

A: Queer people, for the most part, do not choose to be queer. Studies show that many factors influence a person's sexuality, such as genes, upbringing and Showcase.

The difference between straight and queer is that society assumes heterosexuality until proven queer, also know as "heterosexism."

This assumption of heterosexuality forces many queer people to choose between acting straight or facing revulsion for being who they are. Not an easy choice, is it? Which is why so many queer people choose to be fabulous as well as open about their sexuality.

And no, there is no incentive for being gay, unless you like being called names, getting beaten up or facing discrimination at work and school. If you do, then you are a very weird person who I think could benefit from counseling.

There is, however, an incentive for converting hets into queers: for every 10 people, you get a free toaster. I have four toasters.

Q: Why are there are Gay Pride parades and events and no Straight Pride?

A: Sadly, heterosexuals just aren't as good at partying as us fags. Also, they lack fashion sense. Hence, the fabulous parades, the gorgeous costumes and the intense debate over Tom Cruise (he dresses so well!). Gay Pride events and groups celebrate queers and acknowledge the diversity of human sexuality by showing our heterosexist society some much-needed variety. Like any minority group, queers want to be seen and respected.

Maybe dancing half-naked down the street isn't a way to get respected but it sure is fun, and it shows off our cute butts too.

Unfortunately, difference breeds intolerance. Fortunately, we are all different, so it shouldn't take too long for everyone to get along once they realize this.

Q: Why do gay people have so much sex?

A: It is estimated that 10 percent of the world's population is queer in some way or another. Now, do you really believe that we are having more sex than straight people? I wish hets would have less sex, we'd have less of a population problem! Queer people are usually more vocal about their sex lives because we get heterosexual sex force-fed to us daily in the media and we want a little attention ourselves. By embracing our sexual difference, queers embrace sex wholeheartedly, and thus the stereotype of the sex-crazed fag.

Pants-less Polonius scandalizes Shakespeare festival

by Colin Plant

To go or not to go? That was the question. Well we went. Due south. To the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

It takes upwards of 10 hours to traverse the I-5 highway to the festival home of Ashland, or two relaxed days if you choose to take the scenic Oregon coast highway. Either way, it's well worth the drive.

The festival, which began in 1935, is home to the oldest Elizabethan stage in the Western Hemisphere. The first festival featured three Shakespeare plays in three nights. Now the festival produces eleven plays a year and attracts an audience of over 368,000 patrons.

The festival now boasts three separate theatres – the outdoor Elizabethan theatre, the more conventionally styled Angus Bowmer theatre (named for the festival's founder), and the multi-use New Theatre.

During its history the festival has featured every Shakespeare play in the canon at least twice and many of their artists have been with the festival for over 10 years. The large company offers productions every day of the week except Mondays, although tickets can often be sold out weeks in advance. The company casts actors based on ability and turns a blind eye to casting actors based on race. African-American and Asian actors, while smaller in number than Caucasian actors, have a definite presence with the company.

On our first day in Ashland we visited the Angus Bowmer theatre and took in a performance of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Edward Albee's seminal work on marital breakdown. This well-rehearsed production steamed by in three hours as if it were half that duration. The depth of portrayal by the actors playing couple George and Martha was inspiring. Their performances were so nuanced that one could not help feeling that you were witnessing the actual final battle in a marriage that had been sour for a long time. It was also the first timé I had seen a production of this play that captured the essences of these two tormented characters without making one seem morally superior than the other. The cast accepted a deserving standing ovation from the matinee audience.

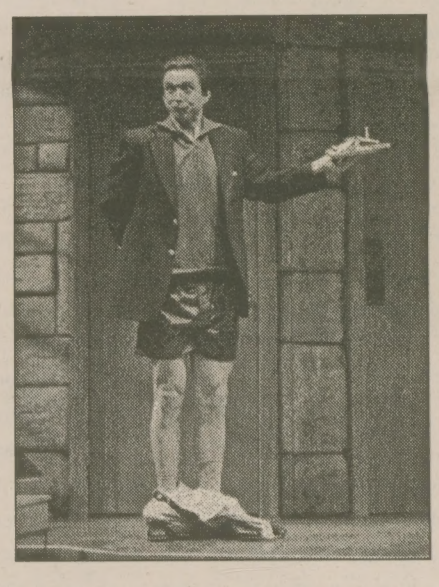
That night we returned to the same theatre and took in a production of *Noises Off!*, Michael Frayn's farcical take on the difficulties of a traveling theatre company. The company of actors handled the demands of this script well, although it did seem that the actors were not entirely comfortable with the genre. However, the audience loved the production and welcomed the cast with strong applause at the curtain call.

The next afternoon we took in a production of *Macbeth* in the New Theatre. This production was unique in that it had been adapted to be played by only six actors and condensed to run under two hours.

This production was performed in the round with only a large disc as the set. In the centre of the set was a pool of blood that served as a reminder of the nature of the play. The leads in this production while working very hard at their roles, did not have the depth of character or the ability to show a large range of emotion. It may have resulted from having cut so much of the play, which is already Shakespeare's shortest, but the actors seemed a little out of their depth in this production.

Other than Banquo, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, all the remaining characters in the production were played by three women. The theatre definitely showed its versatility in this production, with every possible entrance used frequently as well as the seating aisles.

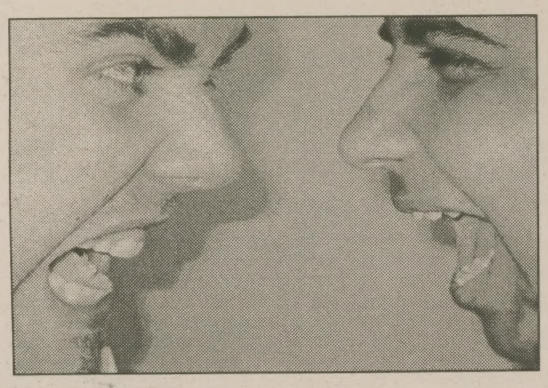
That second night saw us taking in the production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at the outdoor Elizabethan theatre. This production was workmanlike, with capable acting from its cast, but the real stars of the show were the actors playing Jaques and Touchstone. These two characters, each playing the role of a fool for their lord, were brought to life with such excellent and enthusiastic performances that I found myself getting a tad bored when the lovers were experiencing their folly and instead wished for these wise men to return to the boards.



Nothing says "comedy" like a man with his pants around his ankles.

The experience of seeing a play outside on the Elizabethan stage is absolutely wonderful. It begins while the sky is still light and gently turns into night. The theatre gets a nice breeze through it that cools the audience after a typically hot day. The lighting that becomes more and more prevalent is underplayed and the general atmosphere in the theatre is one of jovial celebration.

As we pulled onto the highway heading north, we realized that we really had been treated to some outstanding theatre during our brief stay. While we may have preferred some plays to others, the audiences at all the shows were all very enthusiastic. Take the time to go to Ashland. There you might find, to paraphrase the Bard himself, "such stuff as dreams are made on."



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[2002/2003]
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[guess what this is? that's right. **more empty space**. it could be filled with names, **your** name for example. why not come down and **get involved?** your name in lights? well, *not really, no*. but we still want to meet you.]

Tin Machine singer scores with solo album

Heathen
David Bowie
Sony, 2002

by Heather Westhaver

I was a little skeptical about this newest Bowie album. Having been disappointed by his last studio release, *Hours*, I couldn't help but wonder if my money would be better spent elsewhere. Well, I gave in – it is Bowie, after all – and was pleasantly surprised.

There are a few covers on this album, the Pixies' "Cactus," Neil Young's "I've Been Waiting For You," and "I Took a Trip on a Gemini Spacecraft" by The Legendary Stardust Cowboy. "Gemini Spacecraft" is probably the weakest song on the album. That's not to say that it's a bad song. It just doesn't seem to fit with the rest of the album, whereas the first two covers fit in with the original work.

The rest of the album is filled with songs that are very reminiscent of the Bowie of the '70s. This may have something to do with the fact that David teamed up once again with Tony Visconti, the production genius behind such Bowie albums as 1970's *The Man Who Sold the World* as well as the "Berlin Albums" – *Low*, *Heroes* and *Lodger*.

"Slow Burn," which features guest guitarist Pete Townshend, begins exactly like "Heroes" and carries that underlying riff throughout the whole song. "Slip Away" is reminiscent of "Life on Mars" and pays homage to Uncle Floyd and two of his sidekicks. *The Uncle Floyd Show* is a children's television show that is now in its 25th season, primarily seen in the New York and New Jersey areas. Bowie was turned on to the show by John Lennon. My personal favourite on *Heathen* is "Everyone Says Hi," a sweet song about a man talking to a lost love. The Doo-Wop backing vocals are a nice touch too.

While the music on *Heathen* is reminiscent of past Bowie songs, the lyrics definitely reflect the fact that Bowie is now 55. That's not to say that the songs are old and tired, just that they are more reflective than previous works. While Bowie may be middle-aged he definitely shows no signs of slowing down.

photo by Heather Westhaver

This is, come on, you know who this is. Look at those cuffs. It's Bowie! Ahhh!

Bowie tours this summer in Europe, as well as on the American leg of Moby's Area 2 tour.

Bowie fans who enjoyed his '70s albums will enjoy *Heathen*. While it's not his best album, it is certainly ranks as a must-have for Bowiephiles.

One per cent inspiration, 99 per cent perspiration

by Lindsey Starr

This summer, droves of UVic students are taking advantage of the sunshine and getting out and about in record amounts.

Most are riding bikes, playing tennis, surfing in Sombrio, or running on the numerous trails around campus. But how many can boast of spending the summer months creating a device that will allow people to participate in a sport that they never dreamed possible?

A small group of mechanical engineers are busily working on a kayak modification kit that will enable people with mobility or agility disabilities, or low pain threshold disorders to engage in ocean kayaking.

Dr. Doug Nichols, director of UVic's physical education department, has sought the help and expertise of senior-level mechanical engineering students to create the device.

Nichols says the idea of creating a kayak modification kit first came up 15 years ago at a meeting for the British Columbia Summer Games Society. The group was asked to find a sport that would allow people with physical disabilities to compete on an even playing field with able-bodied peers.

The group chose shooting and, of all things, flat-water kayak racing.

"With kayaking it seemed perfect," Nichols said. "The main part of the body in use is the arms. But after a while we realized that the lower body movements that help a kayaker to balance and stabilize were very important and that realistically the competition wouldn't be even."

Although the kayak competition was eventually scrapped, the experience enticed Nichols to continue the project.

An avid paddler, Nichols decided to create a device that would allow people with physical disabilities to function in the water as efficiently as able-bodied people. Thus, the idea of the modification kit was born.

Ocean kayaking involves a rudder system, which the kayaker manipulates using foot pedals installed in the front of the cockpit. This means that, if you don't have the use of your legs, you can't use the rudder to navigate through ocean water.

Nichols started tinkering and eventually came up with a design: a modified skirt equipped with a floatation device, two pontoons for stabilization of the boat and a rudder control system that would allow the user to move the rudder without the aid of foot peddles.

The system had to be waterproof, light and easy to use. But Nichols' early prototypes did not match his vision.

It was then that he, along with Dr. Doug Tolson of the Innovation and Development Corporation, contacted Dr. Colin Bradley of the UVic engineering department.

The three agreed that the modification kit would be a perfect project for the senior mechanical design project class that he teaches.

The assignment was presented to the class, and five work groups (each consisting of eight students) were established. It has turned into a mini-competition of sorts, with the winners having their design produced and tested by different organizations internationally.

Fourth-year mechanical engineering student Dave Black is one of the students involved in the project.

"It has really been a learning process so far," said Black. "Our group is experimenting with a sip-and-puff design, as well as a remote-control paddle that will allow the user to move the rudder by pressing down on buttons installed in the handle."

Other groups are experimenting with remote-control systems and battery-operated motors.

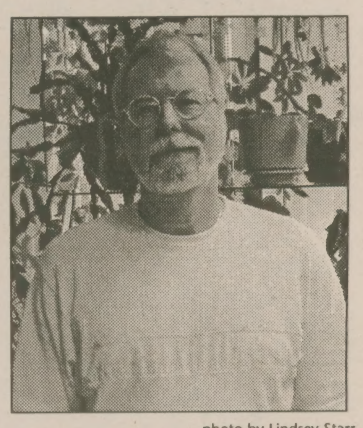

photo by Lindsey Starr

Dr. Doug Nichols, director of UVic's physical education department, is bringing water sports to the disabled.

At the end of the semester, the students will be given a trial period in which they will display their designs and a winner will be chosen by Bradley, Nichols and Tolson.

But Nichols said that the real testing of the various projects will take place when the prototypes are taken out into the world.

"Hopefully this will open doors for people who never had the opportunity to ocean kayak before," he said.

Life could happen anywhere

Old Money
Wendy Wasserstein
Harcourt, 2002

by Katrina Sark

When was the last time you were moved?

I don't mean by anything on wheels or a bitch-neighbour who likes to get people evicted to make his or her own life more interesting.

I mean something like a very real dream that you want to recall over and over again just to keep it in you for a little longer.

Or a book or film you can't stop talking about. An idea or realization that keeps you awake through the night. Or the moment when you see a certain face in the crowd and suddenly realize what a joy it is to be able to breathe.

If you have no idea what I'm talking about, you are missing out on some of the best things this planet has to offer. Wendy Wasserstein's new play *Old Money* will not give you that feeling. In fact, it will not even come close to that. But it might interest you anyway.

Old Money is set in New York and deals with the usual handful of conflicts: family issues, generation clash, social obligations, money, power, and, to an extent, love.

The plot feeds off the constant movement of time and space, with traces of human joy and sorrows connecting the different periods and the different personalities.

Beyond all that, Wasserstein's play is as well-orchestrated and well-choreographed as ballet. The characters waltz onto the stage in one era, and step off into another.

The setting is a high society party split into two time periods: one at the beginning of the century, and the other at the end - modern day life, entangled so that the audience ceases to notice the difference by the end of the first act.

Old Money is preoccupied with the 20th century, but the issues that keep the characters going are universal and could happen anytime, anywhere. It would be interesting, fascinating even, to see the play staged in Victoria.

Like I said, life could happen anywhere.

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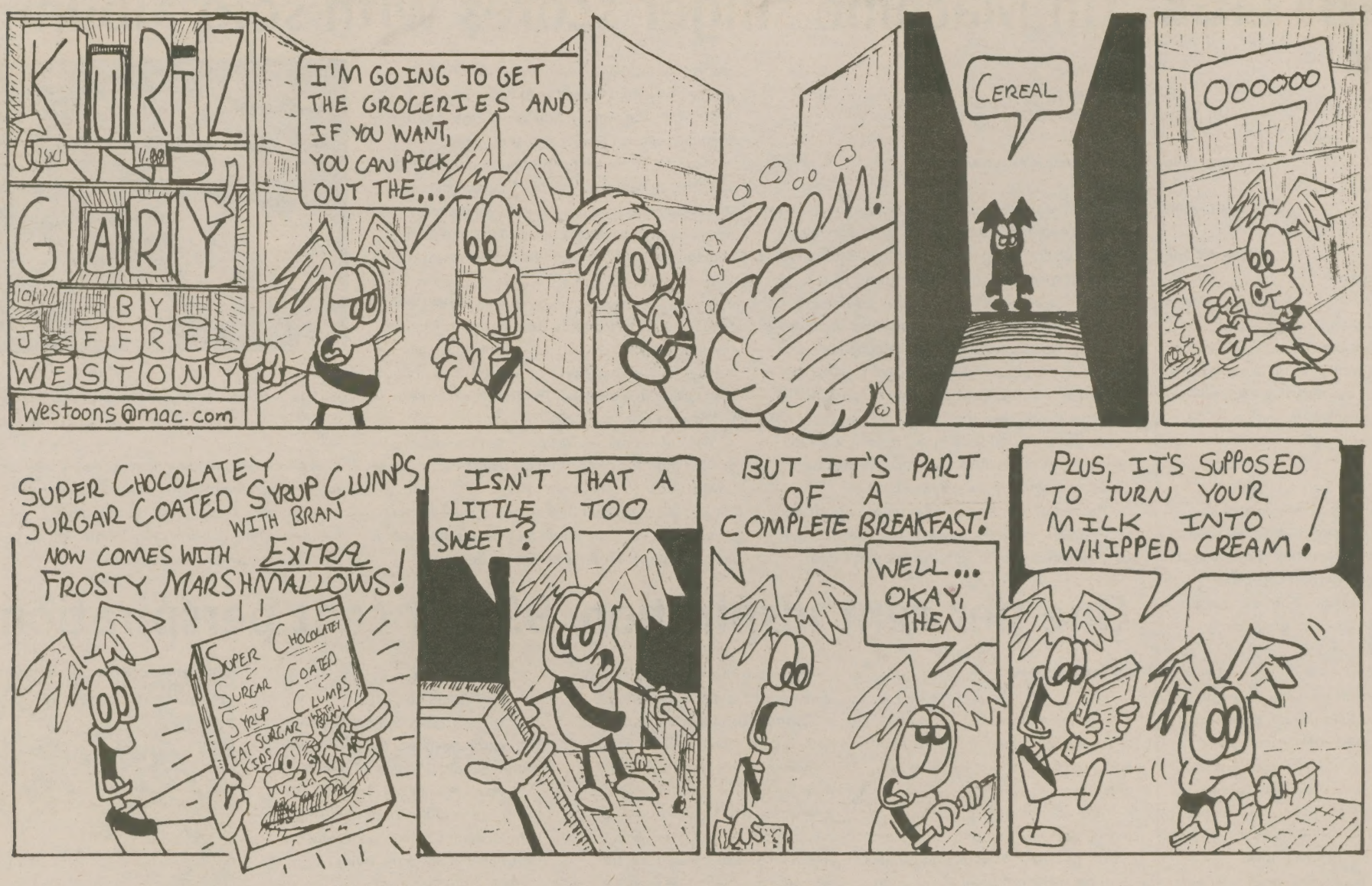
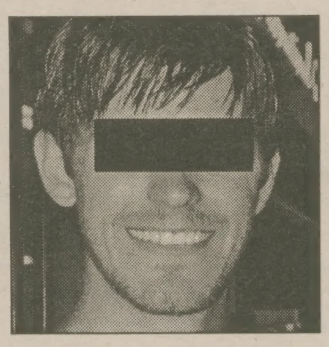

KURTZ AND GARY
BY JEFF WESTON
Westoons@mac.com
I'M GOING TO GET THE GROCERIES AND IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN PICK OUT THE...
ZOOM!
CEREAL
OOOOOO
SUPER CHOCOLATEY SURGAR COATED SYRUP CLUMPS WITH BRAN
NOW COMES WITH EXTRA FROSTY MARSHMALLOWS!
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE SWEET? TOO
BUT IT'S PART OF A COMPLETE BREAKFAST!
WELL... OKAY, THEN
PLUS, IT'S SUPPOSED TO TURN YOUR MILK INTO WHIPPED CREAM!

on the spot

Compiled by Tanya Madsen

What was the last thing you stole?

"Mark"
3rd year political science
What: A young lady's heart and a couple of toonies from my dad's wallet.



"Karlos"
Program? No comment.
What: Parking, paid for with a "found" credit card. All I wanted was the parking – the card is going back!

"April"
4th year visual arts
What: A test tube.
When: A random drunk night with the girls.

"Eugene"
Writing graduate
What: A barber pole. We took silly photos with the pole, then cleaned it and put it back.

"Jen"
PolySci grad
What: A "friend" stole a pair of maracas.

BILLBOARDS

on campus

Meditation and self-awareness. The presence of Swatantr Jyoti brings one to experience one's own highest awareness and freedom. After 25 years in India, she is here in Victoria for just one night. The Cadboro Building, UVic, Henderson Room. Admission $10.00. July 26, 7:00 pm. Call 727-5640 for more information.

announcements

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tutors

English tutoring, quick essay editing, very reasonable rates. Call Carlos at 881-8784, or email at serravet@accglobal.net

events

Come onna my house! You are in! We are havin' a party! This Friday and every Friday. If you cannot find us, you cannot party. Find us. Party.

lost & found

Anyone found a pooch? Mine's missing. Name's Jock; has a mild skin disease that looks worse than it is. He's a pure white bread poodle. Best not to approach him. He's not very friendly.

hey you!

Barbara – I think you left something in my apartment when you ran off like that. I'd keep them but they are a bit tight around my hips. Call me if you want them back.

Back in the day, Fantasia, shit, we used to be like brothers. Well, like brother and sister. Well, not really like that either. This isn't an inbred thing. The kids are hungry. Come home.

Egg-eaters! Beware! Eggs have been proven to cause intestinal blockages and dangerous flatulence. You have been warned.

Hey. I recently told you, "Take it outside." I meant it. Take it outside.

Cornelius – where were you? I waited for ages but you didn't show. It's so unlike you. Did I get the address right? Can we try again? Taylor.

I am a poodle named Jock. Boy, am I ever a poodle. Anybody seen me?

Terry. Last Saturday you asked me a question, a very important question. I know you were upset and disappointed that I didn't have an answer for you then, but I've been thinking about it all week. Can I give you the answer now? Will you still be as hopeful now that some time has passed? In any case, I know what my heart is saying Terry, and it's telling me to say just this: yes. Yes, Terry.

Look, I didn't want to walk all that way. I came back for your daughter, but she wouldn't have me. So there. Stop telling your friends I'm such a nice guy. Abe.

I am the little girl that you thought you'd lost, Jack. I still have that necklace and the sketches. And the memories – oh, the memories! I feel like I'm flying. I haven't let go.

You still want me. Nate.

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